

Patent Claims

1. A process for the preventive and/or current display of transmission costs in the transmission of data of Internet and on-line data by a services/information provider to a subscriber, **characterized by the fact** that prior to a pending transfer of data, an additional protocol element (9) is transferred by the services/information provider (6) to the subscriber's terminal unit (1), which contains an indication of the pending volume of data, such that the protocol element (9) is recognized as such by transit nodes that are involved in the transmission and/or telecommunications networks (3, 4, 5) and is supplemented as needed by a corresponding partial cost proportion of its own and, ultimately, the protocol element (9) is evaluated in the subscriber's terminal unit (1), and a display of the total of pending transmission costs is displayed.
2. A process according to claim 1, **characterized by the fact** that the protocol element (9) contains additional price-relevant criteria, such as quality of service, priority of transmission, routing instructions, price group, contractual comments, degrees of security, an indication of the sender, etc.
3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized by the fact** that the evaluation at the terminal unit occurs by means of special options in the browser software that is used in the terminal unit (1), as a result of which the protocol element (9) is recognized as such, the corresponding calculations are performed, and the result is displayed.
4. A process according to claim 3, **characterized by the fact** that the browser software displays an additional menu (10) with alternative menu points on the terminal unit, by virtue of which the subscriber can institute the transmission of the software or, alternatively, refuse it, whereby corresponding information fields stand in a page of offerings that is transmitted by the service/information provider (6) and depicted on the terminal unit's offering page.

5. A process according to claim 4, **characterized by the fact** that the menu (10) encompasses additional menu points that initiate other activities at the terminal unit.

5 6. A process according to one of the claims 1 through 5, **characterized by the fact** that a particular protocol element (9) that is transferred prior to every data transmission is introduced, thus rendering it possible for subscriber to elect whether he would like to receive these data or not.

10 7. A process according to one of the claims 1 through 6, **characterized by the fact** that an individual user data or cost limit, beneath which an automatic delivery of data occurs, can be programmed by the user in combination with a standard protocol element (9) such that the user's terminal unit (1) automatically confirms all transmission demands.

15 8. A process according to one of the claims 1 through 6, **characterized by the fact** that a data or cost limit that is set by the subscriber is automatically transmitted to the service/information provider (6), following which the service/information provider (6), for his part, automatically demands a confirmation/denial of the pending transmission by the subscriber for all data deliveries above this limit.

20 9. A process according to one of the claims 1 through 8, **characterized by the fact** that a particular protocol element (9) is introduced for all current data transmissions and sent with every data transmission, as a result of which, a clear, current overview of costs is rendered possible, especially in the case of transmission networks that charge by volume.